

Draft Minutes – Youth & Family Services Committee Meeting
March 10, 2022

Attendees: Heidi Porter, Marge Heckman, Sarah Sjostrom, Matthew Derman, Ed Pierce, Scott Jones, Susan Schwartz, Amy Hamilton

Marge opened the meeting by reading the state's remote meeting guidance. She then conducted a roll-call vote.

The minutes of November 11, 2021 were approved as amended. Susan made the motion to approve; Ed seconded. All in favor, 7-0.

The minutes of January 13, 2022 were approved as amended. Matthew made the motion to approve; Susan seconded. All in favor, 7-0.

UPDATES:

Heidi for HHS:

- The food bank continues to serve many. Typically serving 80 each Thursday, this evening 94 people were served via the drive-through.
- The Boston Food Bank has reduced the amount of food that it is providing, from 7,000 lbs/delivery to 6,500 lbs/delivery. The Food Bank receives 2 deliveries a month.
- Some supplemental produce should be available from Gaining Grounds in Concord starting in the spring.
- The Bedford Food Pantry, a 501(C)3, is providing some financial support to the Food Bank. A more formal agreement will be established with this entity.
- In response to an inquiry from Marge, Heidi replied that due to space constraints and logistics, the town is still not accepting food donations; however, monetary donations and donations of volunteer time are greatly appreciated.
- Healthy Bedford has been discussing intergenerational programming and promoting existing infrastructure to encourage mixed age use. Toward this goal, six picnic tables and one shade structure will be purchased using grant funds, to increase the opportunities for casual outdoor gatherings.
- The Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be administered with results potentially available as soon as May.
- Youth & Family Services Social Workers Chris Bang and Mackenzie Comeau have been busy. A recent initiative involves alcohol diversion for adolescents. This will be a collaboration with the police department and the schools. Another initiative is a support group addressing anxiety. They hope to involve approximately ten individuals in this pilot.
- A recent presentation by the Mass Partnership for Youth addressed mental health challenges and the presentation was well attended.
- Through reimbursement proceeds, received for Bedford's involvement in the Department of Transitional Assistance's SNAP sign-up initiative, residents will have access to weekend transportation services to area Farmers' Markets.
- There is a currently a waiting list for Eliot counseling services.
- Interface was on hiatus, but it is open once again.

- April 11 at 6:00PM, there will be a community de-escalation training via Zoom. The presenter is Emily Black, an Eliot practitioner working with the Bedford Police Department.

Susan for Board of Health:

- Covid mask mandate rescinded February 28, 2022.
- BOH updated mitigation strategies and prepared a mask advisory.
- Panera reopened under new management.
- A permit was issued to a resident planning to keep goats as pets.
- New Community Nurse Julie Genova recently began working with the Health Department.
- The BPS, COA and Bedford Embraces Diversity will once again present a Faces of Bedford display. It will include some updates about individuals and families that were included in the original display.

Amy for Recreation:

- Spring and summer enrollment now open and enrollment very strong.

Ann for School Committee:

- The 8th grade DC trip and the 6th grade Nature's Classroom trip were recently approved.

Scott for Police:

- Hiring another clinician using grant funds and in collaboration with Concord Court.
- MCC has been working with Police on a service learning project involving data, particularly calls from hotels. Analysis of this data will be presented March 16 to the Police and Fire Departments, among others.
- Interim Police Chief Kevin Fong is on board.

Ed for Select Board:

- ATM 3/28/2022
- Town Elections 3/12/2022
- 4/7/2022, SB will revisit in person meetings.
- Tree removal at the Chelmsford Rd/North Rd intersection was approved.

Matthew made a motion to adjourn; Susan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53PM.

Next meeting: May 12, 2022.